

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 10-23 were pending in the application when last examined. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 13 are canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 14, 17, 20, 22, and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion and are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over various combinations of USP 6,362,862 to Watanabe et al., USP 6,057,901 to Xu, USP 6,362,862 to Itoh et al., USP 6,411,360 to Matsuyama et al., USP 5,598,012 to Hebiguchi, and Bahadur, "Liquid Crystals," *World Scientific*, Vol. 1, p.189 (1990). These rejections are moot in light of the amendments made above, and are thus not addressed. Applicants would like to note that the amendments herein are requested in the interest of expediting the issuance of a patent and do not constitute an agreement as to the validity of the rejections.

Conclusion

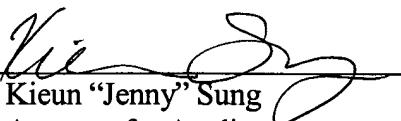
Based on the foregoing reasons, Claims 2, 12, and 14-23 are in condition for allowance.
Please telephone the undersigned attorney at (650) 833-2121 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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